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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Master, strengthen us so that we will live blameless lives, doing what is right and speaking the truth with sincere hearts. Forgive us when we listen to the cynical angels of our carnal nature, and renew in us a spirit of faith and optimism.

Empower our Senators to be true to their duties, making the commitment to labor with integrity. Lord, instruct them with Your wisdom, protect them with Your might, and guide them with Your love.

Chase away thoughts that bring discouragement and fear, as we remember that nothing is impossible for You.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING SHIMON PERES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, we were saddened to learn last night that

Shimon Peres, the ninth President of Israel, has passed away at the age of 93. He leaves behind a remarkable legacy of service on behalf of the people of Israel and a lengthy résumé to match. The Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Gold Medal—Peres earned them all. In fact, I was honored to be a part of the ceremony to award him that Gold Medal just a few short years ago.

His political career is one that spans nearly seven decades and encompasses just about every high office imaginable: President, Prime Minister, peacemaker, revered statesman, and one of the last remaining connections to the founding of the modern State of Israel. This is how the world will remember Shimon Peres, but above all, we will remember him as the embodiment of a nation that the United States is privileged to call an ally and dear friend.

Our thoughts are with his family; with our friends, the people of Israel; and with the many others around the globe who mourn his passing today.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, moving on to the business before the Senate today, last week the President vetoed the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act. At noon today, the Senate will vote on whether to override his veto of that legislation. After this vote, Members should be prepared for votes on the continuing resolution.

Our colleagues in the House made good progress last night on a way forward to help the people of Flint in the Water Resources Development Act, or WRDA, which, as we have said, is the proper vehicle. The Senate already voted overwhelmingly—95 to 3—to pass assistance to Flint families as part of the WRDA bill, and both Chairman INHOFE and I have pledged to continue to pursue resources for Flint once WRDA goes to conference.

As a result, we are hopeful that we will soon reach an agreement with our Democratic colleagues to move forward on the clean CR-Zika package today. It includes important resources to support our veterans, to combat the Zika virus and heroin and prescription opioid crisis, and to serve as a significant downpayment for flood relief. It also funds all current government operations through December 9 at last year's enacted levels. Let's keep working together to pass it.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING SHIMON PERES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on a codel that I led, we were going to stop in Israel, and I told all of the Senators with me that I wanted to take time while we were there to meet my favorite statesman who I had ever met, and that is Shimon Peres.

As my friend the Republican leader outlined, he has a distinctive résumé. I will always remember Eric Cantor, the Republican leader in the House at the time—I called him and said: Shimon Peres is going to be 90 years old, and it would be wonderful if we could get that Gold Medal done during the time he is 90. Eric delivered. It wasn't easy, but he delivered, and I will always remember that. It meant a great deal to this man who had received so many different awards, but to get the highest distinction we as Members of Congress can give someone is something he deserved. As I have indicated, he is the most inspirational public servant I have ever encountered. And when we met him in Israel, he didn't let me down. He was stunningly visionary, like I had always known him to be. What I have said is not hyperbole in

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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